

## Advent and Life Issues

**Advent with Saint Teresa of Calcutta** is the title of a new book by Heidi Hess Saxton that captures the humble yet faith-filled spirit of this great lady. Each day of the Advent season, readers are invited to pray, and to consider what they might offer the Lord as their gift to Him. St. Teresa's example calls readers to consider how they might **love more deeply**, surrender more completely, and let go of all the things they do not need, so there is more room to **receive from the Lord** all He wishes them to have. The book has a daily Advent reflection that can be used this year and many years to come (including readings for all three scripture cycles). ([www.FranciscanMedia.org](http://www.FranciscanMedia.org))

Mother Teresa also exercised courage in defending the dignity of human life, even in the face of strong political opposition. At a recent Respect Life Mass, Paterson Diocesan Bishop Arthur Serratelli recounted how, at a D.C. National Prayer Breakfast, Mother Teresa called **abortion** **"the greatest destroyer** of love and peace. Jesus said, 'If you receive a little child, you receive me.' Every abortion is the neglect of receiving Jesus."

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*"If we accept a mother killing her own child, how can we tell people not to kill one another? Any nation that accepts abortion is teaching its people to use violence to get what they want."*

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

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Bishop Serratelli asked: "How are we to live out our relationship with the God of life? We do so by caring for the elderly, the terminally ill, marginalized, sick, suffering persons, and children waiting to be born." (*The Beacon*, 11/24/2016) These are good guidelines for what we can do during Advent.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
**For All Women Who Have Been Involved in Adoption** The new Adoption Law in New Jersey goes into effect January 1, 2017. For the purpose of confidentiality, women who gave up their children for adoption have until December 31, 2016, to have their names removed from the records.

For assistance please call 866-649-8726 Ext. 582. Also, individuals can obtain a redaction request form on-line from the New Jersey Department of Health, at <http://nj.gov/health/forms/reg-36c.pdf>

## Those Who've Lost Siblings to Abortion

There is often a disconnect when it comes to acknowledging the feelings often experienced by siblings of aborted babies. Surviving children feel a responsibility to keep the secret and support their parents for a variety of reasons. One may be to protect the parent from harm and hurt, another may be the fear of being rejected by someone you knew to protect you, but then found out participated in the death of another sibling. It is all **very confusing**, and they are often fearful to allow their feelings to be known.

Some parents are blind to the fact that it can greatly influence their children's lives, as it raises questions of "wantedness", a sense of knowing someone is missing, if their name would even be the same, or if they would even be here if their sibling was born? If we as a society continue to deny their pain, how can we move to understand and **heal the wounds of the living children?**

Siblings of aborted babies often feel isolated and alone in their feelings with no one to speak to about them. In the past seven years, **Lumina** has held Entering Canaan sibling retreats, in which women and men have participated from across the country. The need for them to unite and know they are not alone in their feelings or experiences reflects the damage abortion has done to countless siblings and the bond they may feel. (Theresa Bonopartis, *The Elliot Institute News*, [www.AfterAbortion.org](http://www.AfterAbortion.org), 10/28/2016)

## Some Good News at Boston College

On October 17, TFP (Tradition, Family, Property) Student Action invited its members to ask Boston College to **remove Planned Parenthood** from its web site where the abortion provider was listed under "Internship Programs." More than 8,000 pro-life students and parents voiced their concern by signing a TFP petition addressed to Fr. William P. Leahy, SJ, Boston College president, asking him to delete the entry. "In less than 48 hours, Planned Parenthood's name was scrubbed off the Catholic college's web site," said TFP Student Action director John Ritchie. "Catholic universities must **never favor the culture of death** in any way, but rather be bold champions of virtue and staunch defenders of innocent life. Let us continue to be vigilant and fight so that procured abortion becomes unthinkable in America." ([www.TFP.org](http://www.TFP.org))

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to be put on the mailing list, contact the editor*

## Pro-Life Prospects After the Election

Across the states, Americans sent numerous pro-life lawmakers into office. Many states elected senators and governors who are **solidly pro-life**. “But the outcome of several state ballot measures went against Church teaching. Colorado voters endorsed physician-assisted suicide.” Other states “voted in favor of the death penalty. And four states approved the use of recreational marijuana.” (*National Catholic Register*, 11/27/2016)

The 36 states with the lowest number of abortions voted for Trump while the 15 highest abortion states gave their votes to Clinton. Although abortion is “the law of the land,” it continues to be an issue over which Americans are deeply divided. (Dennis Howard, letter to *The Beacon*, 11/24/2016)

In the view of Steven W. Mosher, head of the Population Research Institute ([www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org), 11/9/2016), some positive developments may be expected, including:

- Defunding Planned Parenthood. **Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars** will no longer be given to it. The loss of roughly 40% of its annual revenue will surely slow down the killing of unborn children.
- Passage of legislation banning abortions after 20 weeks. The **Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act** will save tens of thousands of lives each year.
- Replacing Obamacare, including its burdensome mandates on many Catholic organizations such as the **Little Sisters of the Poor**.
- The Mexico City policy, first passed by President Reagan in 1984, will be written into permanent law. This will require non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that receive federal funding to certify that they will not perform, promote, or lobby for the legalization of abortion in other countries.
- Appointment of **Supreme Court justices** who will support life under our Constitution.

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### Assisting Those with Same-Sex Attraction

A good Catholic source is Courage International  
[www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)

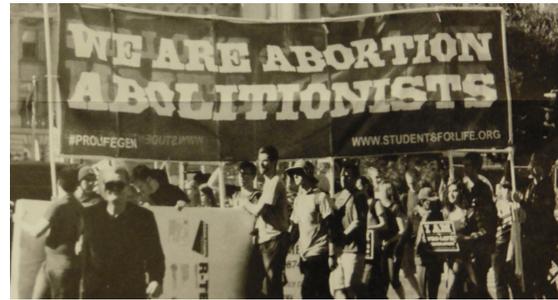
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## Baby Girls Targeted for Abortion

Every year in the U.S., untold numbers of unborn baby **girls are singled out for abortion** simply because their parents wanted a boy instead. Nine states have already outlawed abortion attacks on baby girls, including Pennsylvania and Illinois. Sex selection abortion is legal in some countries, but there is an effort to outlaw it in the U.S., to **make it a crime** to target baby girls for abortion just because they are girls. Interested supporters can let their voice be heard by signing a petition sponsored by the Population Research Institute. ([www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org))

## Students Show Leadership & Courage

Having 843 active groups on college campuses and high schools across America makes Students for Life of America (SFLA) visible nearly everywhere. Their efforts have paid off



in many ways, especially in having trained more than 21,000 pro-life student activists.

The group's objective is to end abortion in America by first **changing the culture**. The law will follow.

Partly as a result of its work, young people ages 18 to 25 are becoming the most pro-life age group in America. Gallup polling reports that in 1990, 36% of young adults believed abortion should be legal “under any circumstance.” By 2012, that number had dropped to 24%. Today, 70% of young Americans believe there should be restrictions and limits on abortion.

The group's president, Kristan Hawkins, says the reason young Americans have become so pro-life is that they feel they are “**survivors**” of the **abortion generation**, knowing that one-fourth of their generation were eliminated by abortion. They are very grateful to be alive.

SFLA create a social hub for pro-life students so that they can see that there are lots of other young people who think like them, despite the pretense of the media that hardly anyone is pro-life.

Young people who are interested in learning more about SFLA can visit its website [www.studentsforlife.org](http://www.studentsforlife.org)

### Save These January Dates & Participate!

- **January 23, 2017**: in New Jersey, there will be held a Rally for Life in the state capitol, from 11 am to 1 pm. The Rally is intended to alert legislators to the fact that **babies in the womb after 20 weeks can feel pain**. The goal of the “20/20” campaign is to have NJ pass by the year 2020 A3452 / S2026, the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.” More and more folks are becoming supporters of the movement. To do your share, why not put a magnet sticker on your car bumper? ([www.Babiesinthewombfeelpain.com](http://www.Babiesinthewombfeelpain.com))
- **January 27, 2017**: in Washington, DC, the annual March for Life will hold its Rally at 12 noon, followed by a peaceful walking demonstration to the Capitol, after which participants can visit their elected officials, urging them to support life-affirming legislation. Buses will be leaving from nearly every county on the east Coast. ([www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org))